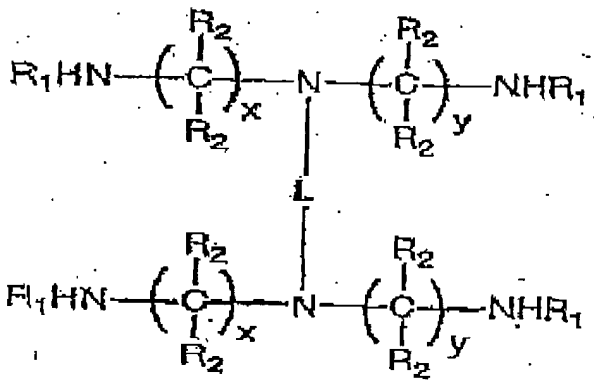
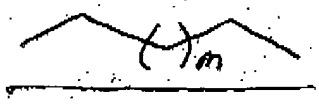
IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly cancel claims 48 and 51. Kindly amend claim 45 and 47 as follows. The remaining claims are unamended.

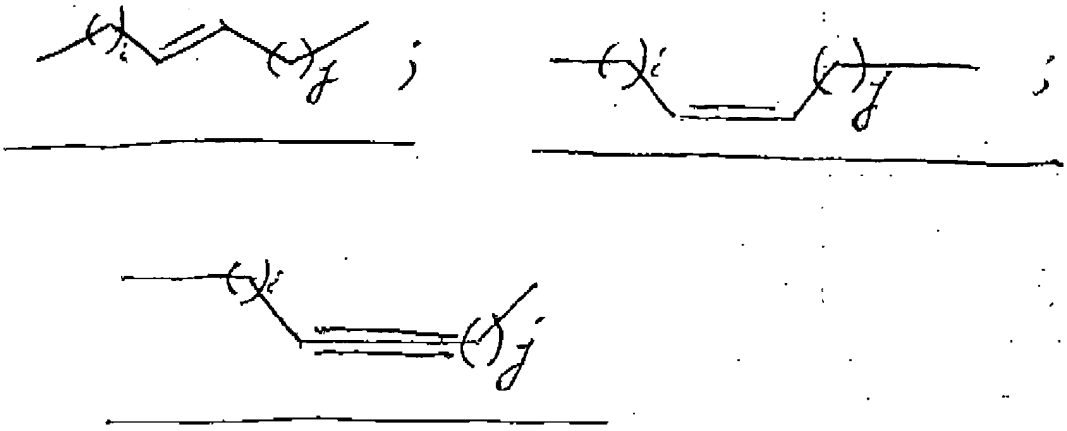
45. (currently amended) A synthetic polyamine dimer formed of two polyamine units, each having at least three amino groups including an intermediate amino group, said units being attached to each other by alkylation through a linker which is a chemical entity that is covalently attached to both said intermediate amino groups said polyamine dimer having the following structure (2):



Wherein R_1 is H, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl or isopropyl, R_2 is H or methyl, x is greater than two and less than five ($2 < x < 5$), y is greater than 2 and less than five ($2 < y < 5$) and L is the following chemical entity.



Wherein $0 < m < 8$,



Wherein $0 < i < 6$

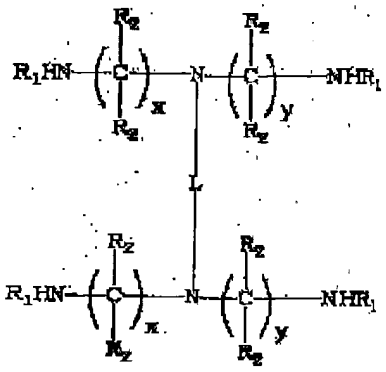
$0 < j < 6$

$1 \leq i+j \leq 7$;

Covalently connecting said first polyamine chain to said second polyamine chain.

46. (unamended) The synthetic polyamine dimer as defined in claim 45, wherein x = 3, R_1 is a hydrogen atom R_2 is a methyl (CH_3) group for the carbon atom located next to each NH -R group and is a hydrogen atom for all those carbons and w = 4.

47. (currently amended) A synthetic polyamine dimer formed of two polyamine units, each having at least three amino groups including an intermediate amino group, said units being attached to each other by alkylation through a linker which is a chemical entity that is covalently attached to both said intermediate amino groups said polyamine dimer having the following structure (3):



wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined in claim 45, where x and y are greater than 2 and smaller than 5 ($2 < x < 5$, $2 < y < 5$), where the sum of x and y is greater than 5 and smaller than 9 ($5 < (x + y) < 9$) and where L is the linker as defined in claim 45.

48. (canceled)

49. (unamended) The synthetic polyamine dimer as defined in claim 47, wherein R_1 is H, x is 3 or 4, y is 3 or 4.

50. (unamended) The synthetic polyamine dimer as defined in claim 47, wherein the linker L is an aliphatic carbon chain having a structure $-(CH2)_n-$, where n is greater than 2 and less than 10.

51. (canceled)